

[25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Subsidy on Sprayer Pump

3266. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals seeking permission to allow 50 per cent subsidy on sprayer pump to orchardists of Himachal Pradesh are lying pending with Government since December, 1997;

(b) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has been requesting from time to time for approval of same;

(c) whether Government propose to consider these proposals early in the interest of development of Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) A proposal for granting 50% subsidy on Power Sprayers was sent by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in November, 1997. However, there was no provision in any of the Schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation during the Eighth Plan to provide subsidy on Power Sprayers. The State Government was informed accordingly. A letter in this regard was received again in June, 2000 from the Government of Himachal Pradesh. During the Ninth Plan, provision has been kept under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Integrated Development of Fruits' for Horticulture Mechanization. Under this component assistance is being provided with effect from the year 2000-01 for all types of manual and power driven equipment @30% of cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 10,000/-per beneficiary.

Implementation of report on Micro-watershed Programmes

3267. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to implement the report as suggested by the high-level policy Committee constituted by the Narasimha Rao Government on Micro-watershed programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.PB.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No high-level policy Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Agriculture on Micro-watershed programmes by the Narasimha Rao Government. However, a High Level Committee on Wastelands Development under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia was constituted in November, 1994 and a Technical Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) was constituted in April, 1993 under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Saving-cum-relief scheme for fishermen

3268. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider to propose any changes in the saving-cum-relief scheme of fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government consider to include the fisherwomen and Inland Fishermen within the purview of the scheme; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Saving-cum Relief component of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen has been modified with effect from the financial year 2000-2001. The beneficiary contribution from marine fishermen has been enhanced from Rs. 45/- to Rs. 75/- per month. The contribution of the Central Government and State Government would now be Rs. 37.50 each per month as against Rs. 45/- each per month provided under the component earlier. The amount to be distributed to marine fishermen during the four months of monsoon/closed period would now be Rs. 300/- per month as against 270/- per month being distributed earlier.

(c) and (d) The scheme will cover Inland fishermen also from the current financial year. In the case of Inland fishermen, a contribution of Rs. 50/- per month for nine months in a year will be collected, and matched by an equal contribution from the Central Government and the State Government. The sum will be distributed in three monthly instalments of Rs. 300/- each during the monsoon/closed period.